reach 60,000 centres all over the country.

(iv) Paidal Jathas covering 100—125 Districts covering 1000 Blocks is to be conducted during this year by the Banwasi Seva Ashram, Mirzapur.

(v) A Radio-based learning package to supplement, enrich and strengthen the print medium of instruction is being taken up in collaboration with AIR from October, 1990 to cover 4000 Adult Education Centres in eight States.

Funds for introducing vocational Education in Orissa

1. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government have urged for release of funds for introducing vocational education in 150 new schools, for promoting science education and for opening of new integrated schools; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Orissa Government has submitted a proposal for introducing vocational courses in 150 new schools during 1990-91. They have also submitted proposals under the Schemes of Improvement of Science Education in Schools and Integrated Education of Disabled Children for the year 1990-91. All these proposals need further clarifications and reformulation Accordingly the State Government of Orissa has been asked to do the needful and submit their revised proposals.

Flight testing of Anti Tank Missile-NAG

2. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Scientists have successfully carried out the ballistic flights of the country's first third generation anti-tank missile known as 'NAG';

(b) whether this weapon in the Indian Defence Forces is going to prove a deterrent to the missiles possessed by other countries: and

(c) whether it has the semblance of French acquired Milan Anti-Tank Missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. NAG missile compares favourably with contemporary anti-tank missiles in service or in development elsewhere. It will also be able to defeat all the known tank armours.

(c) No, Sir. It has no semblance with Milan missile, of French origin, under licensed production in India. Milan is a wire guided 2nd generation Anti-tank Missile whereas NAG is a 3rd generation, top attack, missile.

New specie of horsesoe crab ditected by Scientists of Indian Institute of Oceanography

3. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the National Institute of Oceanography have detected a new specie of horseshoe crab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote its growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Although National Institute of Oceanography has been working on two KNOWN Species of Horseshoe Crab from the coast of Orissa and West Bengal, no NEW Species of horseshoe crab has been reported by them.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of an Institute on Vedantic Studies

4. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an institute for higher studies in Indian thought with emphasis on Vedantic studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The queston of setting up of an Institute Shankaracharya Institute for Indian Thought and Culture by the Department of Culture is in the preliminary stages. The objective to impart higher studies in Indian thought giving emphasis on Vedantic Studies. The courses will include M Phil and Ph.D. It will, however, not impart studies in comparative philosophy.

Birth centenaries of National leaders

5. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of national leaders whose birth centenary celebrations have been organised by Government during the last three years and the expenditure incurred on each; and

(b) what are the details of the major projects commenced during the centenary years and which are still continuing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Apprehension regarding disappearance of traditional varieties of trees by planting fast growing varieties

6. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present policy of reforestation is concentrating on planting fast-growing varieties of trees with the result that the traditional varieties of trees commonly found in Indian forests are likely to eventually disappear; and

(b) if so, what steps are being proposed to be taken to ensure that the denuded forest areas are replanted with the same types of trees which existed there earlier, so as to restore the previous ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Fast growing varieties of trees have been planted under social forestry programme with the aim of providing fuelwood and fodder to rural people. Monoculture-plantations are being discouraged. Under the programme of regeneration of degraded forest land, the indigenous varieties of trees would be planted so as to restore the ecological balance which existed before the denudation of the forests.